

JCSM-277-61

26 APR 1961

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

Subject: NATO - US Targeting

1. Reference is made to Project 106(1) of your memorandum of 14 April 1961, which requested the development of a procedure whereby the deployment and targeting of POLARIS submarines to be committed to NATO may be worked out jointly by NATO commands and the US, with appropriate participation by the Standing Group, without changing projected US military programs.

2. The Joint Chiefs of Staff consider that POLARIS missiles should be targeted together with and in the same manner as other nuclear strike forces in NATO. The present NATO arrangement for targeting provides for appropriate participation by all NATO headquarters and the Standing Group, the latter through their review and approval of the SACEUR and SACLANF Emergency Defense Plans. Upon completion of NATO targeting, the NATO nuclear strike plans are coordinated with those of the US during the preparation of the SIOP by the JSTPS, with changes to the NATO plans made only after approval by NATO authorities. As long as the present targeting arrangements continue in effect, the targeting of POLARIS submarines committed to NATO should be accomplished in a manner which is satisfactory to both the United States and NATO and which would not appreciably affect US military programs.

3. Operational deployment procedures should be developed by SACLANF, and SACEUR, together with CINCLANT and USCINCEUR in consonance with principles of deployment approved by the Standing Group. Participation by CINCLANT and USCINCEUR should ensure inclusion of the necessary national and naval considerations which are in consonance with projected US military programs.

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BY JCS ON

25 Apr 61 For the Joint Chiefs of Staff:

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ARLEIGH BURKE
Chief of Naval Operations

(JCS 2305/462 - Approved as amended on 26 April 1961)

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JCS 2305/462

26 April 1961

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JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF
DECISION ON JCS 2305/462

A Report by the J-5

on

NATO - US TARGETING (U)

Note by the Secretaries

1. At their meeting on 26 April 1961, after making an amendment, the Joint Chiefs of Staff approved the recommendations in paragraph 9 of JCS 2305/462.

2. Holders are requested to substitute the attached revised page 2547 and 2548, incorporating the amendment, and to destroy the superseded pages in accordance with security regulations.

3. The memorandum in Enclosure A was forwarded as JCSM-277-61, dated 26 April 1961, to the Secretary of Defense.

4. This decision now becomes a part of and shall be attached as the top sheet of JCS 2305/462.

SYSTEMATICALLY REVIEWED
BY JCS ON 27 Mar 83
CLASSIFICATION CONTINUED

F. J. BLOVIN

M. J. INGELIDO

Joint Secretariat

Declassified by Joint Staff
Date 21 Jan 94

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JCS 2305/46224 April 1961Pages 2545 - 2550, incl.

REPORT BY THE J-5

to the

JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF

on

NATO - US TARGETING

References: a. JCS 2101/420

b. JCS 2305/319

c. JCS 2305/435 - 7050/3070 (16 March 61)

The Secretary of Defense has requested that he be furnished the views of the Joint Chiefs of Staff on this matter by 1 May 1961.

9050/14700 (21 April 61) ST

JCS 2305/462

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~~SECRET~~

NATO - US TARGETING

THE PROBLEM

1. In response to a request* by the Secretary of Defense, 1
to develop a procedure whereby the deployment and targeting 2
of POLARIS submarines to be committed to NATO may be worked 3
out jointly by NATO commands and the US. 4

FACTS BEARING ON THE PROBLEM

2. On 16 December 1960, in a statement** presented to the 5
NATO Ministerial Meeting in Paris, France, Secretary of State 6
Herter, on behalf of the US, offered to commit to NATO before 7
the end of 1963, as an interim MREB force, five POLARIS sub- 8
marines having a combined capability of firing eighty missiles. 9

3. The proposed policy directive,*** dated 3 April 1961, 10
on "NATO and the Atlantic Nations" states "The US should announce 11
its intention to commit, say, five POLARIS submarines to NATO 12
for the life of the alliance. . . " and "The deployment and 13
targeting of these missiles should be worked out jointly by 14
NATO commands and the US, with appropriate participation by the 15
Standing Group so as to cover military targets in Europe in 16
the degree that this can be done without change in projected 17
US military programs." 18

DISCUSSION

4. For discussion, see Enclosure B. 19

CONCLUSIONS

5. POLARIS submarines to be committed to NATO should be 20
included with the other nuclear strike forces in NATO which 21
are targeted by SACEUR with appropriate participation by 22
other NATO commands. 23

* Enclosure to JCS 2101/420

** Enclosure A to JCS 2305/319

*** Enclosure to JCS 2305/435

6. Participation by the Standing Group in the targeting of
POLARIS submarines should be through their review and approval
of the SACEUR Emergency Defense Plan (EDP). The SACEUR EDP
should be expanded to include POLARIS submarines when committed
to NATO.

7. The present targeting arrangements will permit employ-
ment of POLARIS missiles in a manner which is satisfactory to
both the US and NATO and which would not appreciably affect
US military programs.

8. Operational deployment procedures should be developed
by SACLANT and SACEUR together with CINCLANT and USCINCEUR
in consonance with principles of deployment approved by the
Standing Group.

RECOMMENDATIONS

9. It is recommended that:

a. The memorandum in Enclosure A, which reflects the
above conclusions, be forwarded to the Secretary of Defense.

b. This paper NOT be forwarded to the commanders of
unified or specified commands.

c. This paper NOT be forwarded to US officers assigned
to NATO activities.

d. This paper NOT be forwarded to the Chairman, US
Delegation, United Nations Military Staff Committee.

ENCLOSURE A

DRAFT

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

Subject: NATO - US Targeting

1. Reference is made to Project 106(1) of your memorandum* of 1
14 April 1961, which requested the development of a procedure 2
whereby the deployment and targeting of POLARIS submarines to 3
be committed to NATO may be worked out jointly by NATO commands 4
and the US, with appropriate participation by the Standing 5
Group, without changing projected US military programs. 6

2. The Joint Chiefs of Staff consider that POLARIS missiles 7
should be targeted together with and in the same manner as 8
other nuclear strike forces in NATO. The present NATO arrange- 9
ment for targeting provides for appropriate participation by 10
all NATO headquarters and the Standing Group, the latter 11
through their review and approval of the SACEUR and SACLANT 12
Emergency Defense Plans. Upon completion of NATO targeting, 13
the NATO nuclear strike plans are coordinated with those of 14
the US during the preparation of the SIOP by the JSTPS, with 15
changes to the NATO plans made only after approval by NATO 16
authorities. As long as the present targeting arrangements 17
continue in effect, the targeting of POLARIS submarines 18
committed to NATO should be accomplished in a manner which is 19
satisfactory to both the United States and NATO and which 20
would not appreciably affect US military programs. 21

3. Operational deployment procedures should be developed by 22
SACLANT, and SACEUR, together with CINCLANT and USCINCEUR in 23
consonance with principles of deployment approved by the 24
Standing Group. Participation by CINCLANT and USCINCEUR should 25
ensure inclusion of the necessary national and naval considera- 26
tions which are in consonance with projected US military programs. 27

* Enclosure to JCS 2101/420

JCS 2305/462

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Enclosure A

(Page revised by Decision On - 26 April 1961)

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ENCLOSURE B

DISCUSSION

Targeting of POLARIS submarines to be committed to NATO.

1. The targeting of SACEUR nuclear strike forces in NATO is performed in SHAPE with participation by appropriate NATO headquarters. The coordination of SACEUR nuclear strike plans with those of the United States is accomplished by the Joint Strategic Target Planning Staff (JSTPS) together with SACEUR representatives attached thereto. Any recommendations by the JSTPS to modify or change SACEUR targeting in order to maximize the effectiveness of coordinated nuclear strike plans must be approved by SACEUR prior to implementation. In practice, in the development of SIOP-62 by the JSTPS, the approved changes to SACEUR nuclear strike plans enhanced the effectiveness of both NATO and US national nuclear strike forces. SACLANC nuclear strike plans are based upon CINCLANT plans, US forces being the only nuclear forces involved at the present time. CINCLANT plans are integrated into the SIOP.

2. Participation by the Standing Group in NATO targeting is accomplished through the review and approval by the Standing Group of the SACEUR and SACLANC Emergency Defense Plans (EDP). To ensure adequate participation by the Standing Group in the targeting of POLARIS submarines, the targeting policies and procedures in the EDP's which are the bases for target selection and coordination should be expanded to include POLARIS.

3. On the basis of experience in the development of SIOP-62 in which the nuclear strike forces of NATO were coordinated, although not committed, it appears unlikely that there would be serious divergencies between NATO and the US relative to targeting of POLARIS, as long as the present targeting arrangements continue in effect. The participation of US officers in NATO targeting activities, the fact that the US is by a wide margin the largest contributor of nuclear forces to NATO, and the close identification between US and NATO goals should continue to ensure employment of POLARIS missiles in a manner which would not appreciably affect US military programs.

It is difficult to visualize the employment of POLARIS
for most contingency plans. However, such targeting
contingency plans as is deemed necessary could be worked
international staffs with alternate targets pre-selected
for the missiles on call by SACEUR. Nonetheless, in
contingency plan there should be no provision for deployment
POLARIS submarines from their normal operating areas or other
which would degrade their general war posture without
prior approval of the US.

Deployment of POLARIS submarines to be committed to NATO.
Any procedure for determining the deployment of POLARIS
submarines to be committed to NATO should ensure adequate parti-
cipation by NATO commands while at the same time maintain
US national and naval considerations. The most
arrangement to accomplish this would be to have the
deployment procedures worked out by SACLANT and SACEUR, with
active participation by CINCLANT and USCINCEUR. Inclusion
of SACLANT and USCINCEUR would ensure provision of the necessary
military and naval considerations while SACEUR would maintain
the principal voice in deciding the employment of POLARIS
submarines which greatly affects the deployment of the submarines.
Therefore, CINCLANT and USCINCEUR could establish deployment
plans which would be in consonance with projected US mili-
tary programs. Participation by the Standing Group would be
achieved through the development of the "principles of deploy-
ment" review and approval of the EDP's of NATO commanders.
Whether feasible or desirable to bring the Standing
Group into the development of detailed procedures for the deploy-
ment of NATO military force, including POLARIS submarines.

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Enclosure B

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